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RUEHKH/AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM 0234
RUEHLO/AMEMBASSY LONDON 1431
RUEHNR/AMEMBASSY NAIROBI 0572
RUEHNM/AMEMBASSY NIAMEY 2704
RUEHFR/AMEMBASSY PARIS 1824
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RUEHGV/USMISSION GENEVA 0729
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STATE FOR AF/C, AF/EPS, EB AND PRM
USAID/W FOR DCHA/OFDA AND DCHA/FFP
ACCRA FOR USAID/WARP
KAMPALA FOR USAID/RFFPO
NAIROBI FOR OFDA/ECARO AND RFFPO
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GENEVA FOR NKYLOH
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SUBJECT: AMBASSADOR'S FY 2006 DISASTER RE-DECLARATION OF A
COMPLEX EMERGENCY IN CHAD: CONFLICT-AFFECTED POPULATIONS IN
THE EAST

REF: 05 NDJAMENA 0020

11. Disaster Determination. The Republic of Chad continues to suffer from an ongoing disaster that warrants U.S. Government assistance to meet the emergency requirements of conflict-affected populations in the east of the country. This disaster exceeds the host country's ability to provide an adequate response and the Government of Chad has specifically requested donor support and has demonstrated its willingness to accept USG assistance. It is in the interest of the USG to respond; therefore I re-declare the complex emergency in Chad and request continued support from USAID/OFDA to meet humanitarian needs.

12. Background

a) Since April 2003, more than 200,000 Sudanese from the western Darfur region have fled their villages and sought refuge in eastern Chad, an extremely undeveloped, semi-arid region where the local population struggles to survive even in good times. The refugees arrived with an estimated 1.5 million head of cattle, placing increased pressures on scarce land, pasture and water, which in turn has led to heightened tensions between the two communities, occasionally manifesting itself in conflict. Exacerbating the situation further is the increased insecurity along the border, starting around December 2005, causing displacement of upwards to 35,000 Chadians from their villages to safety further inland. Thus, Chad's eastern border area is now host to both refugee and internally displaced populations.

b) While a massive relief program has been successfully organized for the refugee population, assistance for host

communities has been minimal and localized by comparison. In January 2005 the Ambassador issued a disaster determination in an effort to address, at least in part, this shortcoming by mobilizing \$50,000 to assist the host population in and around Bahai, the northernmost location for refugee camps. This was followed by \$3.5 million awarded by OFDA to five organizations which had proposed projects focusing on host population needs in the areas of water, health, sanitation and food security. UNHCR also reserved five per cent of its budget for activities benefiting host populations. It is necessary for these and like activities to continue implementation through FY 2006 and into 2007 in order to address very serious life-support needs of host populations in these refugee-impacted zones, and to help prevent conflict between the two communities. Attention will also need to be paid to the relatively recent population of internally displaced persons (IDPs).

13. Recommended Disaster Response

a) Population affected by refugee influx. As in FY 2005 when OFDA provided about \$3.5 million to address problems faced by Chadian host communities impacted adversely by the refugee influx, Post recommends a similar approach in FY 12006. The goal remains to ameliorate the extreme poverty and lack of development in the fragile environment of eastern Chad by supporting activities in the water/sanitation, health, nutrition, and agriculture/food security sectors. This approach was effective (based on discussions with beneficiaries, local authorities and aid agency representatives, as well as personal observation by OFDA and Embassy staff) in addressing urgent host population needs and

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defusing growing animosities between refugee and host communities.

b) IDPs. OFDA should support the approach advocated in the April/May multi-agency assessment led by WFP, which is to provide targeted assistance to IDPs and their hosts, especially in the area of water, sanitation, health, nutrition and agriculture. An effort must be made to avoid over-reacting and negating the considerably effective coping mechanisms the IDPs have developed for survival over the years. Of particular importance will be assistance in the agriculture sector. The traditional and provincial authorities are working to find land for the IDPs to cultivate, but many will be in need of seeds and garden implements due to their hasty flight from janjaweed attacks. Food rations will be distributed concurrently with seeds in order to discourage their consumption. Food for Work activities are also planned by WFP after the initial round of seed distributions. The development of sustainable water sources is also required, while shelter and non-food items may be needed on a targeted basis. Existing services should be strengthened to the degree possible, although mobile health clinics may be required in some areas.

14. Disaster Re-declaration in Chad. In light of the above, I re-declare the existence of a complex humanitarian disaster and request continued support from USAID/OFDA to meet humanitarian needs in Chad.

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